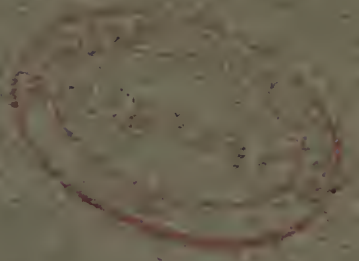


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Medical Officer's  
Annual Report.

1937



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URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY

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Medical Officer's  
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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health to  
the Saint Ives Urban Sanitary Authority for the  
year 1937

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1937.  
The Ministry of Health has again this year asked for an ordinary report.  
The area of Civil Parishes contained in this District is 4,339 acres.  
The normal resident Population for the area as now constituted is 7,936.  
The number of inhabited houses in 1937 was 2,850.  
Rateable Value, £51,200.  
Sum represented by a penny rate, £193 10s. 2d.

Vital Statistics

During the year there were 79 live births (40 male and 39 female). Of these 1 male and 2 females were illegitimate. The corrected birth-rate was 9.96 per 1,000 per annum (birth-rate per 1,000 of England and Wales 14.9). There were 7 stillbirths (2 males and 5 females) none being illegitimate.

The deaths were 119 (47 male and 72 females). The local crude death-rate would therefore be equivalent to 14.9 per 1,000 per annum, but in order to compare it with the death-rate of the country as a whole, due regard has to be given to the higher average age of the inhabitants of the district. After making due allowance for this factor, the local adjusted death-rate is 10.4 per 1,000 and this figure compares with 12.4 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

The following table gives the percentage of deaths from the commoner conditions:

	1937	1936
Heart Disease ... ..	34.4 per cent. ...	37.16 per cent.
Cancer (maligant disease)	10.9 per cent. ...	11.50 per cent.
Tuberculosis (all types)	5.04 per cent. ...	6.19 per cent.
Nephritis ... ..	2.52 per cent. ...	1.77 per cent.
Accidents ... ..	1.6 per cent. ...	1.77 per cent.

The maternal mortality based on deaths primarily classed to puerperal conditions is as follows :

Puerperal Sepsis per 1,000 live births, nil (corresponding figure for England and Wales, 0.97)  
Puerperal Sepsis per 1,000 total births nil, (corresponding figure for England and Wales, 0.94)  
Other accidents and diseases } per 1,000 live births, nil (England and Wales 2.26)  
of pregnancy and parturition } per 1,000 total births, nil (England and Wales 2.17)

Causes of Death

Disease				Male	Female	Total
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	3	10	13
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	5	6
Tuberculosis (other forms)	...	...	...	—	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	4	1	5
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	1	1	2
Influenza	...	...	...	1	2	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	1	2
Heart Disease	...	...	...	16	25	41
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	3	4	7
Cerebral Hæmorrhage etc.	...	...	...	3	7	10
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	3	1	4
Congenital Debility (premature birth, e c.)	...	...	...	4	—	4
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1	1
Other digestive diseases (not petic ulcer)	...	...	...	—	1	1
Senility	...	...	...	4	4	8
Other violence	...	...	...	—	2	2
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	3	6	9
Total from all causes				47	72	119

Infantile Mortality

There were 5 deaths in children under the age of one year viz., 4 males and 1 female, all being legitimate, the rate of Infantile Mortality being 63.3 per thousand births. Rate for England and Wales, 58.0.

The following table gives the causes of Infantile deaths :

Congenital Debility and malformation or premature birth	5
Total	5

Notifiable Infectious Diseases

Diseases											Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	2—3 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	34—45 years	45—65 years	65 and upwards	Total all ages		
Sacarlet Fever	1	2	5		1					9	3	
Diptheria	1	2	1	1						5		
Erysipelas							1	1	1	3		
Pneumonia								1		1		1
Puerperal Pyrexia						1				1		
Total	2	4	6	1	1	1	1	2	1	19	3	1

The rate of Notifiable Infectious Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) was 2.39 per thousand population.

45 visits were paid to infected houses, including the disinfection of 21.

The case rates of the above diseases per 1,000 population are as follows :

Pneumonia	0.12	(England and Wales 1.36)
Scarlet Fever	1.71	( " " 2.33)
Diphtheria	0.95	( " " 1.49)
Erysipelas	0.57	( " " 0.37)

### Tuberculosis

#### NEW CASES

#### DEATHS

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
5—10 years								
10—15 years				1				
15—20 years				1				1
20—25 years	1	1						
25—35 years	3	2			1	2		
35—45 years	1					1		
45—55 years								
55—65 years						1		
65 and upwards		1						
Total	5	4		2	1	4		1

The provisional death-rate per million population from Tuberculosis are as follows :

	Males	Females	Persons
Respiratory Tuberculosis	126	504	315
Other Tuberculosis	nil	126	63

### Hospital, Nursing and Sick Transport Services

There are no professional Nurses for infectious diseases, no Clinic or Treatment Centre for Tuberculosis or Venereal disease. An Infant Welfare Clinic is held in the Borough and is rendering useful service. There are 3 District Nurses who also practice Midwifery. No Hospitals are as yet provided by the Local Authority or by the County Council. The Tuberculosis Dispensary for the District is held at the West Cornwall Infirmary, Penzance, where the Tuberculosis Officer attends weekly. An Orthopædic Clinic is also held here to which cases from the Borough have access.

The nearest Venereal Clinic is at Tuckingmill, near Camborne.

The Edward Hain Memorial Cottage Hospital, St. Ives, supplies the medical and surgical needs of the Borough in so far as a Hospital of this type is capable of doing.

Other Hospitals serving the area are :

The West Cornwall Infirmary, Penzance. The County Mental Hospital, Bodmin.

The County Maternity Ward, Redruth Hospital.

The work of transporting the sick and injured to and from the Hospitals is ably carried out by the local Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, which equips and maintains a Motor Ambulance. A grant of £15 was made by your Council with regard to these services during the past year.

The question of the provision of an Infectious Disease Hospital for the combined districts of St. Ives, Penzance, West Penwith and St. Just is not yet settled, the difficulty being in connection with the water supply available at the proposed site in the Parish of Ludgvan. The Ministry of Health have asked that more definite information shall be produced relating to the flow in the drier months of the year and the inability to furnish this information is responsible for the delay. It is hoped that this will soon be overcome.

### Laboratory Work, etc.

All Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out either by the Pathological Laboratory at Redruth or by the Pathological Department of the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro. Diphtheria anti-toxin is provided by your Council free in all necessitous cases and provision is also made for the examination of swabs in all suspected cases of Diphtheria.

### Statement of Adoptive Acts

Act	Date of Adoption	Parts or Sections	Date Adopted
Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act 1889	22nd July, 1892	All	1st October, 1892
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890	22nd July, 1892	All	1st October, 1892
Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890	8th August, 1904	All	10th October, 1904
Private Street Works Act 1892	24th July, 1911	All	11th September, 1911
Public Libraries Act 1892	15th March, 1895	All	1st May, 1895
Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907		Part II Secs. 15 to 27 and 29 to 33 Part III Secs. 34 to 42, 44 to 46, 49 to 51 Part IV Secs. 52 to 60 62 to 65 Part V—All Part VI—All Part VII Secs. 79, 81, and 82 Part VIII—All Part X—All	
Public Health Act 1925	1st Sept., 1933	Parts II, III, IV and V and third schedule	



## Public Health Staff

There is a certificated full-time Sanitary Inspector and a part-time Medical Officer. Half the salary in each case is paid by the Ministry of Health. An additional Sanitary Inspector is also employed full-time.

## Proceedings under the Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects remedied	...	...	...	...	83
(2) Number of dwellings in respect of which defects were remedied after service of informal notices					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	77
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	0
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	3

Nuisances discovered were as follows:

Damp and Dilapidated Dwellings	...	...	...	15
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	...	4
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	4
Defective and Choked Drains	...	...	...	23
Defective Water Closets	...	...	...	15
Want of Drainage	...	...	...	3
Insufficient Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	3
Overflowing Cesspits	...	...	...	2
Foul Accumulations	...	...	...	10
Dirty Premises	...	...	...	6
Premises Rat-Infested	...	...	...	4
Overcrowding	...	...	...	1

Visits of Inspection made in connection with the above:

Primary Inspections	...	...	...	102
Re-inspection	...	...	...	148

## Arrangements for Disinfection

After all cases of an infectious nature the rooms are disinfected by aid of Formalin gas. Disinfectants are supplied by the Council in most cases. There is no steam disinfectant in the district.

## Inspection of Places where Food is Prepared

There are 8 Bakehouses which are frequently inspected and found in sanitary condition. There are no wholesale Butter and Cream Factories.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Act is controlled by the County Council. Following is a list of samples taken during the year:

Milk	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream	...	...	...	2
Baking Powder	...	...	...	1

All samples were found to be genuine.

Regulations under County Council are now operative for Registration of Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers. Visits of inspection were made and no cause for complaint was found.

No action has been required for smoke abatement.

Factories and Workshops

There are about 67, including Silk, Laundry, Box and Engineering Work. Workshops consist chiefly of Plumbers, Carpenters and Smiths. Very few accommodate more than one or two employees. Numerous visits of inspection have been made.

List of Trades carried on in the District :

Silk Factories	...	...	1	Motor Mechanics	...	...	16
Box Factories	...	...	1	Stone Masons	...	...	1
Fishermen's Requirements	...	...	2	Steam Laundries	...	...	1
Tailors	...	..	4	Pottery Works	...	...	1
Bakeries	...	..	8	Engineering Works	...	...	1
Bootmakers and Repairers	...	...	12	Upholsterers	...	...	2
Basketmakers	...	...	1	Aerated Water Manufacturers	...	...	1
Plumbers and Tinsmiths	..	...	3				
Smiths	...	...	3				—
Carpenters and Wheelwrights			9			Total	67

Shops Act, 1935 9

64 Visits were made under the Act. No preliminary notices were found necessary in regard to cases where improvements were required.

Schools

All the Schools in the Borough have been visited on several occasions during the year and close co-operation is maintained with the Head Masters and Mistresses when questions of Infectious Disease or undue sickness arise in connection with the scholars. No cause for complaint has been found in connection with the sanitary conditions of the Schools.

Dairies

In the District most of the Farms produce cream or milk, and most of the Farmers are Purveyors of milk either wholesale or retail. There are 12 wholesale and 30 retail producers. Very few Farms now manufacture butter, most of the milk produced being taken to the Butter Factories in the district.

There are 25 Purveyors of Milk in the district and 5 who supply cream only.

Visits of inspection have been made to these.

It was still found necessary in some cases to remind the occupiers of regulations as to cleansing of cow-sheds.

In 8 cases drainage, lighting and ventilation matters required attention and the necessary improvements were carried out. In 6 cases attention was drawn to cleansing.

No cases of infectious disease occurred at farms during the year.

There are no producers of certified or Grade A (T.T.) milk in the Borough.

Slaughter Houses

There are 8 such premises under constant supervision. Many visits have also been made in cases of Occasional Slaughtering. The meat generally has been of good quality.

Food Inspection

The following articles of food were voluntarily surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :

2 whole Carcases of Beef	...	...	Tuberculosis
192lbs. of Veal	...	...	Decomposition
46 Ducks	...	...	"
36lbs. of Jellied Veal	...	...	"
12lbs. Tinned Ox Tongue	...	...	"
6lbs. Corned Beef	...	...	"
6lbs. Tinned Prawns	...	...	"
12lbs. of Smoked Haddock	...	...	"

Housing Statistics

1	Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :				
	(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	..	97
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	112
	( ) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925				14
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	..	...	18
	(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	..	..	3
	(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation				11
2	Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal notices :				
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	73
3	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :				
	(a) — Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :				
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	0
	(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :				
	(a) By owners	...	...	...	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	0

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	3
2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :						3
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	0

(c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	0

(d)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	0

4 Housing Act, 1936. - Part IV.-- Overcrowding :

(a) - (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	17
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	17
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	96
(b) - Number of new cases of overcrowding during the year	...	...	...	nil
(c)---(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	19
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	83

## Houses Erected 1937

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	5
(2) By private enterprise	...	...	...	38
				<hr/>
			Total	43

Since the 1930 Act came into force the work accomplished in the Borough under the five year programme, up-to-date, is as follows : 48 houses have been demolished in Clearance Areas, with the displacement of 176 persons. In addition, 17 individually unfit houses have been closed and 83 persons displaced.

No action has been found necessary during the year in connection with the eradication of bed bugs.

## Water Supplies, Sewerage and Refuse Disposal

**WATER.**—Although the past year has been a very dry one, the water supply (although at times low) has been maintained to a reasonable extent, the Trenwith Supply being called upon to augment the chief supply from the Bussow Reservoir when necessary. Periodical examination of the water (chemically and Bacteriologically) have shown the water to be satisfactory.



**SEWERAGE.**—During the year, work has proceeded on the new sewerage scheme mentioned in my last Annual Report. It is hoped that this will be completed very soon. It is to be noted in this connection that no closets were converted to w.c.'s during the year, but it should be explained that out of the total of 2,850 houses in the Borough, approximately 2,750 have w.c.'s (the remaining 100 being in the more scattered rural parts of the district). Of the 2,750 houses mentioned above, all those in the Carbis Bay district, at present drain into cesspits, but when the new sewer (which is nearing completion) is finished, these houses will be connected to it and the cesspits abolished.

A further portion of the Stennack River has been culverted during the year and plans are in hand for an extension of this undertaking.

**REFUSE DISPOSAL.**—During the year, following approval of the scheme by the Ministry of Health, the work of erecting the new Incinerator has proceeded and it is hoped that the same will be in commission early in the coming year. In the meantime, the disposal of refuse has been carried out by means of controlled tipping at the Balnoon dump. Samples of water taken from the neighbourhood of the dump during the year have proved satisfactory and have shewn that the dump has not proved to be a source of pollution.

**GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.**—The vital statistics relating to the Borough shew that the death-rate can be considered satisfactory. Unfortunately, the birth-rate still declines and has reached the low level of 9.96 per 1,000 per annum. The percentage of deaths from Tuberculosis shews a decrease, as do also deaths from Cancer. The incidence of the various notifiable Infectious Diseases is also less than the previous year, especially in regard to Diphtheria. There has been an increase in Infantile Mortality over the preceding year, the rate being higher than that for England and Wales as a whole, although this, in my opinion, is due to causes of a temporary character. Nevertheless, I am of the opinion, that as the work of re-housing proceeds, the beneficial effects of this will be reflected in a reduction of the same and also in a still further decrease in certain cases of preventable disease, especially Tuberculosis.

I have again received valuable assistance in my work from the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. E. Phillips, A.R.S.I., and the Assistant Inspector, Mr. D. B. Davies, both of whom have, by their loyal co-operation, and the effective discharge of their duties, assisted very greatly in the Sanitary Control of the Borough.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**R. H. HADFIELD,**

Medical Officer of Health.





